

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

In addition, their determination to broadcast this so-called documentary so close to the election is being done with a clear intent to influence the election. Therefore, they should be forced to give John Kerry and the democrats time to respond immediately following the broadcast under the equal time rules. If Sinclair broadcasting refuses to give Kerry equal time, then they should be prohibited from broadcasting their hatchet piece, Stolen Honor. This whole situation is an outrageous abuse of the public trust granted to Sinclair broadcasting by the FCC, and the FCC must act immediately in order to avoid another electoral travesty. We, the public, will be watching how the FCC responds to this situation and, regardless of the outcome, we will continue to maintain our vigilance and monitor what happens from now on. We will no longer be passive observers.